

ABSTRACT

A highlight suppression image pickup apparatus optically and electronically removes a highlight portion of an image before light reaches an imaging element, thereby obtaining a high-quality image. There are included a camera part (10) for acquiring a desired image; a highlight suppression signal producing part (22) for producing a non-binary highlight suppression signal on the basis of a blue channel image output among red, green and blue channel image outputs from the camera part (10); an active filter part (16) disposed in the vicinity of the focal plane of the camera part (10) for optically controlling, in accordance with the highlight suppression signal, the amount of light transmitted to a red and green imaging element part (15); a blue channel matching part (23) for electronically suppressing, on the basis of the highlight suppression signal, the blue channel image output; a restore signal producing part (24) for producing, on the basis of the highlight suppression signal, a restore signal; and a final image signal outputting part (28) for outputting the red, green and blue channel image signals obtained by the camera part (10) as an optically and electronically highlight-suppressed image.